to revive it, amend it or scrap it;

(b) as most of the channels are charging exorbitant fee and at the same time earning millions from advertisement, what is Government's policy towards these channels; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India [TRAI] became the 'Regulator' for broadcasting and cable services in January, 2004. It has been entrusted with additional functions to make recommendations regarding the parameters for regulating maximum time to advertisements in pay as well as other channels and the terms and conditions on which the "addressable systems" shall be provided to customers. Besides, TRAI is also to specify the standard norms for, and periodicity of, revision of rates of pay channels, including interim measures. TRAI is currently examining the various issues concerning the implementation of 'Conditional Access System'. After their final recommendations are received, appropriate decision would be taken.

Ban on video piracy

1266. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring a law banning video piracy and whether any representation has been received from the Film Industry;

(b) how may cases of video piracy have been reported in the year 2003-04; and

(c) what is the estimated loss to the industry per year due to the pirated video cassettes and discs?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Under the Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under the-purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, infringement of copyright is a cognizable offence. The Government, from time to time, receives representations from the film industry, regarding the need for strict action against piracy.

(b) The responsibility of dealing with offences under the Copyright Act rests with the police authorities of the State Government and the Union Territory Administration. Copyright Enforcement Cells have been set up in most of the States/Union Territories headed by a senior police officer to deal with such offences. No data is maintained centrally by the Government regarding the number of video piracy cases reported.

(c) According to the information provided by FICCI, the estimated loss to the film industry per year, due to pirated video cassettes and discs is Rs. 400 crores.

Implementation of C.A.S.

1267. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAS has been implemented so far in any part of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the responses from various corners of the country about its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The State Governments of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal had approached the Central Government for deferment/withdrawal of the Conditional Access System (CAS) citing various reasons relating to consumers' interests, including issue of pricing of pay channels, Set Top Boxes (STBs) and terms and conditions for procurement of STBs. Besides, during the course of implementation of CAS, a deep divide was also noticed amongst the stakeholders, *viz.*, broadcasters, multi-system operators and local cable operators, having a direct impact on the interests of the consumers. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which became the 'Regulator' for broadcasting and cable services on 9th Jan. 2004, has initiated a number of steps to ascertain the difficulties faced by the consumers, the effect of implementation of CAS and the problems faced during the course of implementation of CAS. TRAI, as an interim measure, suggested that the implementation of CAS in the four metros be either denotified or kept in abeyance for at